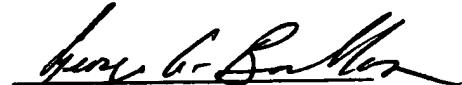


PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
U.S. Application No. 09/765,411
Attorney Docket: Q62798

REMARKS

Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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23373

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

2. The ink cartridge according to claim 454, wherein the first outer shell constituent member and the second outer shell constituent member are hermetically coupled together by vibratory welding.

6. The ink cartridge according to claim 454, wherein the first outer shell constituent member and the second outer shell constituent member are hermetically coupled together by heat-welding.

11. The ink cartridge according to claim 454, wherein a first continuous, closely contactable surface is formed over the entirety of a peripheral edge of a lower case forming the first outer shell constituent member; a second closely contactable surface is formed on a peripheral edge of a cover forming the second outer shell constituent member to be brought into close contact with the first closely contactable surface; and an engagement section removably engaging the peripheral edge of the lower case is formed integrally on the cover, the engagement section maintaining the case and the cover in a sealed state.

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17. (Amended) An ink cartridge for use with a recording apparatus, including an ink pack of flexible material storing in ink therein, and a cartridge case ~~hermetically~~-formed for housing the ink pack, wherein, when the ink cartridge is mounted to a recording apparatus, pressurized air is introduced into the cartridge case, the ink cartridge comprising:

first and second cases which constitute the cartridge case, said second case having a circumferential portion;

a flange section formed along an edge of an opening of the first case, wherein said circumferential portion of said second case covers said flange section; and

at least one lug-shaped member which is formed on the second case and engages with the flange section, thereby coupling the first and second cases together, wherein said lug-shaped member protrudes inward from an inner surface of said circumferential portion.

23. The ink cartridge according to any one of claims 18 through 22, wherein ~~a~~the film member is sealed to the edge of the opening of the first case by heat welding.

43. An ink cartridge for use with a recording apparatus, including an ink pack of flexible material storing in ink therein, and a cartridge case ~~hermetically~~-formed for housing the ink pack, wherein, when the ink cartridge is mounted to a recording apparatus, pressurized air is introduced into the cartridge case, the ink cartridge comprising:

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first and second cases which constitute the cartridge case, said second case is formed from a planar section acting as a cover and a fold section formed integral with and perpendicular to the planar section;

at least one lug-shaped member which is formed on the fold section of the second case; and

at least one slit formed through the second case at a location corresponding to the location of the lug-shaped member, said slit extending in a direction parallel to the fold section.

47. An ink cartridge for use with a recording apparatus which supplies ink to a recording head by application of pressurized air produced by an air pressurization pump, the ink cartridge comprising:

an outer shell member constructed at least by a case and a heat-welding film ~~first outer shell constituent member and a second outer shell constituent member that are hermetically coupled together~~;

an ink pack of flexible material storing ink therein, the ink pack being housed within the outer shell; and

a pressure chamber defined between the outer shell member and the ink pack and adapted to receive the pressurized air produced by the air pressurization pump,
~~wherein the second outer shell constituent member is a heat welding film.~~

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48. The ink cartridge according to claim 47, wherein the case and the heat-welding film ~~first outer shell constituent member and the second outer shell constituent member~~ are hermetically coupled sealed together by heat-welding.

49. The ink cartridge according to claim 48, wherein a continuous, substantially planar weld surface is formed over the entirety of a peripheral edge of ~~the case-a lower case forming the first outer shell constituent member~~, and said heat-welding film ~~forming the second outer shell constituent member~~ is thermally welded to the weld surface.

51. The ink cartridge according to claim 50, wherein an engagement section removably engaging the peripheral edge of the ~~lower case~~ is formed integrally on a peripheral edge of the reinforcement member.

52. The ink cartridge according to any one of claims 48 through 51, wherein reinforcement ribs are formed on the surface of the ~~case~~~~first outer shell constituent member~~, the surface at least partially defining the pressure chamber.

53. The ink cartridge according to claim 47, further comprising a cover coupled to the case to cover said film, wherein a ~~first continuous, closely contactable surface is formed over the entirety of a peripheral edge of a lower case forming the first outer shell constituent member; a second closely contactable surface is formed on a peripheral edge of a cover forming the second~~

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~~outer shell constituent member to be brought into close contact with the first closely contactable surface; and an engagement section removably engaging the a peripheral edge of the lower case is formed integrally on the cover, the engagement section maintaining the case and the cover in a sealed state.~~

Claim 54 is added as a new claim.